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T R E A T I S E

O N T H E

STRUMA OR SCROFULA,

COMMONLY CALLED

T H E K I N G ' S E V I L ;

In which the common Opinion of its being a HEREDITARY DISEASE is proved to be erroneous; more rational Causes are assigned; and a successful Method of TREATMENT is recommended.

By T H O M A S W H I T E,  
SURGEON to the LONDON-DISPENSARY.

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T H E S E C O N D E D I T I O N .

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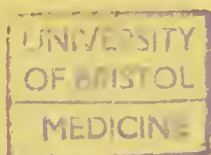
PRIMROSE-STREET,

BISHOPS-GATE, WITHOUT.

INSTITUTED JUNE, 1777.

Patients admitted,	31,596
Discharged, cured, or relieved,	29,236
Died,	926
Discharged,	823
Remains now under cure,	611
Of whom were admitted as casualties, without any letter of recommendation,	} 297
Have been attended at their own habitations,	
	} 5,420

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TO THE  
MOST HONOURABLE THE  
MARQUIS OF LANSDOWN,  
PRESIDENT.

SIR WATKIN WM. WYNN, BART. M. P.

SIR CERRARD WM. VAN-NECK,

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VICE PRESIDENTS.

MY LORD, AND GENTLEMEN,

HAVING had the honour to inscribe  
a former Edition of this Treatise  
to the President and Vice-Presidents of the  
London Dispensary, permit me to lay  
before You, the last return of patients ad-  
mitted since its institution in June 1777.

by which it appears, that nearly 30,000 persons have been cured or relieved of different diseases or accidents, and many under the most distressing circumstances. This retrospection is an unequivocal proof of its utility, and must afford the most sensible pleasure to those who have in a particular manner contributed to its support. To your Lordship, the Governors of this Charity, (I may venture to affirm) feel the strongest personal attachment, excited by your Lordship's polite and affable attention upon every occasion, and by repeated instances of liberality.

With the most perfect respect, I have the honour to subscribe myself,

MY LORD, AND GENTLEMEN,

YOUR MOST OBEDIENT

AND VERY HUMBLE SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

*Jeffries Square,  
7th April, 1787.*



# P R E F A C E.

ABOUT two years ago I first published my sentiments, respecting the causes and method of treatment, of the Struma ; since which time, I have the pleasure to find them confirmed, not only by my own experience, in cases of upwards of five hundred patients, but by the concurring observation of some medical friends, who have thought proper to make trial of the means which I had recommended.

Encouraged by these circumstances, I have brought forward the present Edition, in which, besides various alterations and improvements, I have endeavoured to shew, by the best authorities, that the Struma has  
existed

existed from very remote times ; and to refute the common idea, that it is a hereditary disease, transmitted by parents to their offspring. An attempt to dissipate prejudices, where they appear to be such, will, I hope, be received with candour ; and in this expectation, I voluntarily submit my opinion to the decision of the public.

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A

T R E A T I S E

O N T H E

STRUMA OR SCROFULA.

---

C H A P. I.

**T**H E complaint now to be considered seems to have affected mankind as far back as medical authority can be traced. Hippocrates, Celsus, Pliny, and others, give a description of the symptoms of this disease, under the head of the Struma.

I suppose it will now be universally admitted, that this complaint is not confined to climate, age, sex, or the human species.

B

It

It is more frequently found in the middle latitudes than either in intemperately cold, or hot climates.

Different animals are subject to this disease: it has been long observed among hogs, and thence obtained the name of Scrofula. I have seen it in monkeys, and horses, and very frequently among sheep.

We find from history, it was denominated the King's Evil in the time of Edward the Confessor, who is supposed to be the first that attempted to cure this disease by the touch.

It appears to have been at times very general in this country. From a register kept in the Royal Chapel, we are informed, that King Charles the Second, touched 92,107 persons, in a certain number of years; and if we admit both the veracity of Mr. Morley, and his judgement in discriminating the disease, he had, many years since, seen, or been consulted by upwards of 5000. But I am inclined to think, that the public will entertain



tain as little faith in a Vervain-root suspended by a white ribband round the neck to the pit of the stomach, as they have long ceased to cherish with regard to the efficacy of the Royal touch, or any similar superstitious means.

At what precise period the opinion arose, that the Scrofula differed so peculiarly from the generality of diseases by the circumstance of hereditary transmission, I have not been able to determine.

But though this opinion is not modern, no such idea is conveyed by the antient writers before quoted, who must be admitted as the best authorities of their time. I have had opportunities of seeing this disease under a multitude of different forms, and am induced to consider the opinion of its being hereditary (according to the general explanation of that term,) as very erroneous. On making frequent enquiries, what people understood by a hereditary disease, the answer has generally been to the following effect : viz. a habit

of body tainted with some peculiar disease derived from one or both parents. The common opinion is, that it resides in the blood; and, though sometimes apparently extinguished, yet actually exists during life, and its unhappy consequences are transmitted from generation to generation. To remove this prejudice by candid reasoning, supported by facts, is a principal object of the present Treatise; and that the reader may be better enabled to judge for himself, I shall give a brief explanation of the Lymphatic System, which is the seat of the Struma, or King's Evil; point out what kind of constitution predisposes to this complaint, and under what circumstances such a constitution is liable to the attack of this disease.

I shall next give a description of the symptoms, according to the part or parts affected; with an account of what I have reason to believe, to be the best means of preventing the disease. To these will be subjoined some observations, upon the present general  
mode

mode of treating Scrofulous patients ; which will be followed by a more satisfactory, and I am certain, a much more successful method of cure.

## C H A P. II.

### *A short Explanation of the Lymphatic System.*

**T**H E best Anatomists have not, I believe, as yet, been enabled to make those accurate and general dissections of the Lymphatic System, which they have been fortunate enough to accomplish in other vascular parts of the body. I should suppose that every person is acquainted with the terms, arteries and veins, and knows that the former conduct the blood from the heart to every part of the body ; while the latter are the channels by which the vital fluid is returned to that organ. The Lymphatic vessels are distributed through the whole body, like the veins and arteries, but perfectly distinct from

from either. The contents of this system of vessels are a thinnish pale coloured fluid, with little or no smell, and commonly of a saltish taste; the Lymphatic vessels, in the manner of their distribution, have a greater resemblance to the veins than to the arteries, as they proceed from the surface and extremities of the body towards the centre; but they are infinitely more valvular than the veins, with a great number of intervening glands, the uses of which do not at present seem to be sufficiently understood. These glands are differently denominated, according to their situation.\* They are often found more numerous in one person than another; nor does this variation appear

* Glandulæ Lymphaticæ	The Lymphatic Glands
Cervicales	Of the Neck
Occipitales	Of the back part of the Head
Bronchiales	Of the Bronchia
Axillares	Of the Arm-pit
Mesentericæ	Of the Mesentery
Inguinales	Of the Groin
Crurales, &c. &c.	Of the Legs, &c. &c.

to

to be the evident consequence of any previous disease.

In some particular parts of the body, the Lymphatic glands may almost always be found, especially in children. These parts are the Axilla or arm-pit, the Inguen or groin, the sides of the neck, and under the chin, Mesentery, &c. It is a common observation, that in young animals, there are glands, and they are likewise large, where, at the age of maturity, they are either very small, or entirely defective.

To enumerate the uses of the Lymphatic System, would very far exceed the limits of this Pamphlet; I shall therefore only just mention a few that are obvious and of the greatest importance. The process of nutrition will necessarily claim our first description.

The food being received into the stomach, and having undergone certain changes by digestion,



gestion, enters the small intestines where the chyle is absorbed by the Lymphatics, which in their parts, are called Lacteals: and passing on to the glands of the mesentery, it then advances to the receptacle of the chyle, and thoracic duct, which empties itself into the left subclavian vein. The chyle thus mixed with the blood, proceeds with it to the heart, to be transmitted through the lungs, and fitted for the purposes of the general circulation; the residuum of the food is discharged by the alimentary chanal.

This is a brief account of the progress of the aliments, towards nutrition, so necessary to supply that constant waste, which must ever accompany human existence.

From the great importance of this order of vessels to the human frame, it is evident that any impediment to their natural functions, from whatever circumstance, must prove extremely pernicious; and I am fully persuaded that such a morbid state is a very general, if  
not



not the most frequent cause of internal diseases ; if the mesenteric glands are affected, the natural consequence must be a debilitated frame, from want of a proper quantity of nutriment. I can affirm that this is much more incidental to children than is commonly imagined. For in a great number supposed to die of worms, consumptions, and the like, I have almost always found the mesenteric glands exhibit more or less, of a diseased appearance.

Various diseases are conveyed to the constitution by the means of the Lymphatics, such as the inoculated small-pox, Lues Venerea, bite of the mad dog and other animals ; and though some parts may be more disposed to absorption than others, yet experience proves, that different species of contagion may be transmitted from the point of the finger or toe, as well as in the arm. In fine, the Lymphatics may be considered as the agents of good and evil ; and I am of opinion that a more perfect knowledge of  
C this

this important system will tend more to develop the causes of disease, than any other discoveries hitherto made by anatomists.

### C H A P. III.

*What Kind of constitution may be Considered as predisposed to the Struma, or King's Evil*

THE constitutions most subject to diseased Lymphatic glands, are those which are the easiest affected by the operation of the causes generally producing disease. For it is the common criterion of a good constitution, that a person so endowed may indulge in a variety of excesses, and expose himself suddenly to intemperate changes of weather and season, without experiencing any sensible inconvenience. The gradations between a constitution very susceptible of indisposition, and its opposite extreme, are innumerable; and they constitute the grand source of diseases, both acute and chronic, to which mankind is liable: but this variety in predisposition is no proof  
of

of any latent or hereditary disease. Children frequently resemble their parents in person and constitution ; consequently if two persons of a delicate form of body have children, it is natural that such offspring should inherit the delicacy of the parents : not but we very often see, where children are properly attended to, that they acquire better constitutions than their parents. On the other hand, when the constitutions of the parties are different, the husband perhaps an athletic man, and the woman delicate and susceptible of slight affections ; if they have children, some will probably resemble the mother in person and constitution, whilst others are more similar in those respects to their \* father ;

\* I was lately attending in a family in which were four children, and the contrast was remarkable. The first and third were stout healthy children, and the second and fourth, little fine skinned delicate creatures. The obvious difference excited notice, and I enquired respecting their general health and other circumstances. It was observed, that the first and third had uniform good health, that the second was now much healthier than she had been, and  
that

ther; and their several predispositions will, of consequence, be different. This I conceive to have been the case, in the family mentioned by Dr. Cullen, in the 4th part of his First Lines. But this is no proof of any existing disease, or latent virus. A person of a very susceptible habit may be in perfect health before the application of the cause, producing the change from health to disease: and notwithstanding slight causes may produce such an effect, yet it is not to be thence inferred that there was any previously existing disease, or that the occasional was the proximate cause of the supervening complaint. We might as well suppose any small piece of machinery to be imperfect, because a less degree of violence shall destroy its mechanism, or impede its movements than is necessary to affect one of the same kind, of a longer and stronger construction.

that the youngest, then about two years old, was seldom a week or fourteen days without having some complaints of his bowels, his teeth, fever, cough, &c.



## C H A P. IV.

*What are the external Appearances of a susceptible Constitution. At what Period, - and under what Circumstances the Habit is liable to the Attack of this Disease.*

**T**HE most distinguishing mark of a susceptible habit, when in health, is, in my opinion, a fine skin; I do not mean by this the colour, but the thinness of the skin. This remark being novel, might appear to be imaginary, but a little attention will soon convince every person, that there is as much difference in the substance of the human skin, as in that of horses or other animals; and however disadvantageous a fine skin may appear to be, from its attendant susceptibility of the causes producing disease, it is commonly accompanied with the most distinguishing marks of beauty. The great number of persons with this kind of skin, and the frequent and sudden changes in the  
weather,

weather, I consider as principle sources of the prevalence of the Struma in this country. The veins in such persons are commonly large and superficial, and frequently the whole of their external appearance delicate ; though we very often see many of the finest form of both sexes with a very thin skin. To the exterior appearance we have described, may be added in many instances, a paleness of the countenance, a languor in the eye, and what is generally termed a want of vivacity. When such a habit is attacked by the Struma, the natural torpor of disposition will be increased by the disease. Others with a delicate frame of body, and a fine thin skin, have a beautiful florid complexion and their skin is so easily affected by very flight causes, that it shall sometimes change its aspect, more than once in the same day. The eyes are lively, and there is throughout a gayety and sprightliness of manner, that often carries them, when young, to great excess in exercise, and amusements ; to which may be generally added great irritability and acuteness.



acuteness. The complexion is different, sometimes brown, but more frequently fair. The common observation that grey or blue eyes, fair hair and complexion, are characteristic marks of a Strumous predisposition, is intitled to no greater degree of authority than most of the other unfounded remarks in favour of hereditary disease; a very large majority of children in this country have fair hair, and grey or blue eyes, which grow darker, as they advance in years; and at the age of maturity, the hair, and often the eyes, are of different shaded browns, the former especially by far the most general class in this kingdom.

There is no period of life exempt from the attack of the Struma; I have seen it at every age from four days old to sixty years and upwards. Children however being much more susceptible than adults, are thence more liable to diseases in general as well as to the Struma. From twelve months to ten or twelve years, but chiefly to five or six, it most frequently

frequently appears. Girls being more delicate than boys, and in general the female than the male sex, the disease is consequently more frequent among the former.

Diseases of various kinds, often render a constitution naturally good, very susceptible of the slightest impressions. I have seen a great number of children with this complaint, who had not the least predisposition to it in their own constitution, and whose parents were never affected by the disease. It has either come on from bad nursing, or after the small pox, measles, hooping cough, teething, fevers of different kinds, and the like, by which the constitution had been so much reduced, as to be affected by the slightest causes producing diseased lymphatic glands.

It is a common remark, that the children of the labouring part of the kingdom are stronger and healthier than those of persons of rank or fortune; the delicate children of  
persons

persons of fortune, by having every necessary aid from good nursing and medical assistance are preserved in health, whilst those of the poorer class, of a similar habit of body fall early victims to the delicacy of their constitution.

The proportion of deaths under two years of age, within the bills of mortality is astonishing. I have somewhere seen a calculation that the proportion is that of 9,000, to 16,000:

During infancy, improper diet, diseases, or accidents may be a cause of the Struma or King's Evil in every child, but at a later period in life, if the constitution be healthy and athletic, the disease is not so readily produced. The reason of this is obvious. The occasional or existing causes must be violent, or long continued, before such a constitution will be affected.

## C H A P. V.

*The Proximate Cause of the Struma.*

**I**T would afford me the highest satisfaction, were it in my power to assign such a proximate cause of this disease as should be readily admitted by every medical inquirer. There are few medical men who do not agree with Celsus, when he says: "*Causæ proximæ investigatio ad cognitionem morbi ducit amplissimam.*" Yet this does not lessen the difficulty: every one will concur with me in opinion, that it is often much easier to cure a disease than to ascertain its true proximate cause; and whenever hypothesis is the basis of an opinion, the door is open to endless and often useless controversy. For this reason chiefly I avoided the attempt at such an investigation in the former edition of this Treatise; nor should I have now introduced the subject, had not the plan of the present edition appeared to demand it.

Authors

Authors have differed much in opinion with respect to the proximate cause of this disease. Galen and his followers, thought it arose from a cold pituitous matter ; others, imagining a determinate proportion of solids and fluids to be necessary to the formation of the human body and its preservation in health, have ascribed this and a variety of other diseases, to a redundant quantity of the latter.

Avicenna supposed that it arises from melancholy. Leaving those ancient authorities, I shall mention one or two near the present period. Wiseman, much the best practical writer upon this subject, maintains the proximate cause of the Struma to be a prevailing acidity in the serous part of the blood. Dr. Cullen supposes it to arise, in general from acrimony, and in some cases, from a peculiar construction of the Lymphatic glands. These few respectable authorities, without adding any more, may be sufficient to shew the contrariety of opinions that have been entertained



tained on this subject. Indeed the Struma often appears under such a variety of forms, according to the different stages of the disease, age, and constitution of the patient, that I can very readily believe each of those writers to have seen cases exactly corresponding to the ideas which they respectively entertained of the proximate cause.

Having already described the kind of constitution predisposed to the Struma; viz. a habit of body naturally delicate, and very susceptible of slight impressions productive of disease, and having likewise recited some of the principal doctrines relative to the proximate cause, it may be expected that I should deliver my own opinion on a point of theory so much agitated. My opinion therefore is, that the Struma or King's Evil arises immediately from obstructions in the Lymphatic system, most frequently occasioned by a visciditv of Lymph, or that fluid which is contained in the Lymphatic system. I conceive that every impediment to the regular  
secretions



secretions in the different organs of the body, will generally have a tendency to render this fluid viscid, and produce obstructions in the Lymphatic system, particularly in those parts which are more immediately affected; whether from exposure to cold, producing a constriction of the capillary vessels generally, or partially; any natural or artificial evacuation wholly or in part obstructed; too plentiful a diet, inordinate indulgence of sleep and want of exercise, &c. one or more of these and various other causes, which are more fully pointed out under the head of *Occasional Causes*, may tend to encrease the tenacity of this fluid; an event which may not only produce obstructions in the vessels, but even render them totally unfit for performing their natural functions in the animal œconomy.

In accounting for the origin of the Struma, it seems unnecessary to suppose any peculiar conformation, or morbid organization of the Lymphatic system. It is sufficient for our purpose,

purpose, that there is, beyond all contradiction delicacy of frame; and, in most instances, I believe the first appearance of obstructed glands to be indicative of general indisposition or the consequences of previous disease; by which the habit is rendered more subject to the causes producing diseased Lymphatic glands, and less capable of resisting their operations.

This reasoning will appear more admissible when we consider what are the powers by which the fluids pass forward in the Lymphatic system. In the circulation of the blood, the action of the heart, the strongest muscle in the body, and also of the arteries, will readily account for the return of the blood through the veins. It may be proper to observe, there are numerous valves in the veins of the extremities, so that the blood having passed one of these, it cannot return downwards; and while there is a power sufficient to bring forward a new supply, that which occupies the space between the

two

two valves is propelled; and a perpetual succession supplied by the powers before mentioned. What the power is; by which the contents of the Lymphatic system are carried forward, it will be difficult precisely to say. We know that there is no such organ as the heart subservient to this system; and if the vessels have a muscular power, it cannot be supposed very strong, from the extreme thinness of their coats, particularly in the smaller branches. It is therefore most probable, that the Lymphatic vessels, which are all cavities, absorb when in a healthy state, the contents of those cavities by what is called capillary attraction. Or, by some mechanical cause, the fluids are pressed into the mouth of the Lymphatic, whilst the valve preventing a return, they act as a stimulus upon the containing vessel; by which, with the general action, continually exerted in an animal body, particularly respiration, and circulation, the fluids are carried forward. This appears to me, the only rational way of accounting by what means the contents of the Lymphatic vessels

vessels pass from their mouths to their extremities ; and there can be no difficulty in admitting, that various causes may often impede the progress of those fluids, and give rise to the diseases of the Lymphatic system.

This view of the proximate cause seems to correspond entirely with the form of body and disposition first described in the 4th Chapter. If I may be allowed with Dr. Cullen, to mention a second proximate cause, I should think, a very rigid and irritable state of the constitution, described as forming the second part of the 4th Chapter, a frequent cause of this disease. Consequently all the occasional causes, tending to encrease a rigidity and irritability, must often produce it. Hence we may account for many Strumous appearances, supposed to arise from accidents at play, strains, bruises, exposure to cold and the like.



## C H A P. VI.

*The Occasional Causes of the Struma or King's Evil.*

OF all the occasional causes of diseased Lymphatic glands, particularly in children, that which is the most frequent seems to arise from the improper treatment of them in their infancy. Every person who has made but the least observation upon the mode of nursing children in this country, must allow it to be very exceptionable. From their birth they are either at the breast, being fed, or lulled to sleep in the arms of the nurse, or placed in that destructive machine the cradle, which among the poorer sort of people, is more generally practised ; and not content with these means of procuring sleep, recourse is often had to opiates.



The manner of dressing them is also exceedingly improper : it not only checks the growth and injures the shape of the body, but, I suspect, often impedes respiration, and produces convulsions. What could have been the original intention of fettering young children in such a manner, I am at a loss to conjecture, unless it was done from a mistaken idea of improving their shape ; but we know that in those countries where such a practice was never heard of, the children are seldom or never deformed.

The custom then very often by night, as well as in the day time, is thus, alternately filling (I had almost said overfilling) the child's stomach, and then lulling him to sleep ; by which means it grows immoderately fat, and is what most mothers, and nurses are proud of, a very fine large child ; insomuch that at nine or ten months, when the child should be endeavouring to walk, and use exercise, it is totally incapable. For though the bones are proportionably enlarged, yet,  
like

like the flesh, they seem to partake of a degree of softness, and actually bend under the load they have to support; as is evident from the curvatures which frequently supervene in the legs of those very fat and unwieldy children. When the child loses its flesh by disease, the enlargement and curvatures of the bones become more apparent. It has been usual to consider these deformities as a distinct disease, by the name of rickets: but they are, in fact, only the natural effects of the gross constitution above described; in which the texture and firmness of the bones degenerate from the want of due and equal pressure by the exercise of the muscles. This is most evident in the softer and spongy parts, which are the ends of the bones, particularly in the ribs, at the wrist, knee, and ankle. Surgeons well know that in fractures, without suitable compression, the bones in the divided part, would be, considerably enlarged. A child thus improperly nursed may be compared to a hot-house plant, brought forward by every possible means. In both the growth

is accelerated, and both become luxuriant ; but in the human species, this method is so contrary to nature, that instead of producing, as might be expected, an Herculean race, it not only reduces the strength of the constitution, but lays the foundation of innumerable diseases. Some are carried off suddenly by convulsions and epileptic fits, while others have violent vomitings and purgings, high inflammatory fevers, ulcerations behind the ears, eruptions of the head and different parts of the body, inflammations and suppurations ; almost always accompanied with obstructed Lymphatic glands externally, or internally, and most frequently both. Thus this improper treatment of young children is a very general cause of the Struma.

There are also many other occasional causes of the disease, such as contusions and wounds from external injuries, extreme cold, variable-ness of the weather, particularly in the spring and fall of the year, moist and low situations, any natural or artificial evacuations obstructed,

ted, a removal from one part of the country to another, change of diet, different diseases, as the small-pox, measles, Lues Venerea, hooping-cough, fevers of different kinds, \* errors in respect either of the quantity or quality of diet, and a want of suitable exercise, which will be productive of diseases, in all countries and at all ages, and may be justly considered among the most frequent causes of Struma,

## C H A P. VII.

### *History of the Disease.*

**I** Shall now endeavour to point out the symptoms and progress of this disease, according as the Lymphatic glands in the dis-

\* The quality of the food given to children is of equal importance with the quantity. Nature never intended that young children should be fed with large quantities of animal food and fermented liquors, especially salted and otherwise seasoned meats, luxurious sauces and spirituous liquors.

ferent

ferent parts of the body are principally affected; and as those of the mesentery appear to me to be most frequently the seat of complaint in young children, and in very many instances lay the foundation of a Strumous habit of body, they necessarily claim our first attention.

Those glands being the channel by which nutriment is conveyed into the vascular system, it is evident that when they are obstructed, the habit of body must decline. The flesh, that was before firm, will soon become loose and flaccid, the countenance pale, and a general languor and disinclination to exercise of every kind, particularly in the morning, will prevail; the appetite will vary, sometimes it will be pretty good, at other times but indifferent, an unusual degree of thirst will be experienced, considerable heat will be excited upon the skin, particularly the palms of the hands, the breath will be often offensive, the bowels will be affected with an uneasy sensation, and the  
size



size of the belly will be encreased. But this symptom, I apprehend, is more frequently caused by a distention of the bowels with wind, than by an enlargement of the diseased glands. The pulse will be quick and small, and the lassitude so much increased, that the little patient will, if permitted, continue in one position for a length of time picking or rubbing the nose. In this stage, the disease is often attributed to teething, if there are yet any teeth expected; and in other instances to worms, probably from the picking or rubbing of the nose, which has been often considered as characteristic of that complaint. But there seems little propriety in considering this act as characteristic of any particular disease, as it is common to every indisposition accompanied with \* fever. If

\* During fever most of the natural secretions are diminished, and, that of the mucous membrane of the nose among others; from this diminution the skin becomes dry, the mucous hardens, and there arises a natural propensity to be rubbing or picking it.

the

the children attacked in this manner are of the age of 16, 18, or 20 months, I have almost always been told what fine children they were at ten or twelve months; that at that period they could walk alone; but at this time, it was added, they are totally unable, and require more nursing now than ever. The Lymphatic glands, externally, will frequently become enlarged, particularly those of the back part of the head, and under the chin; the lips will be often swelled, and sometimes attended with eruptions round the mouth, on the back of the head, and different parts of the body; the eyes and eyelashes will frequently partake of the general indisposition; at other times, the fingers, toes, back of the head or arm, have often a morbid appearance; and in short, if accurately examined, it will be found that the Lymphatic glands, in many different parts of the body, are more or less affected. The alvine discharge is irregular, sometimes the patient shall have a purging for a day or two, but is more frequently to this period costive. The  
loss

loss of flesh will become daily more visible, and the bones will appear to grow larger, particularly at the joints ; the head also seems preternaturally enlarged ; the ribs become flattened, and often curvated almost to a right angle with the breast-bone or the spine, which are occasionally distorted in one or more places ; and in proportion to the enlargement previous to the attack of the disease, will this symptom be more or less conspicuous. It has been before observed, that in this stage, the complaint has been usually considered as a disease of the bones ; but I am inclined to think, that in almost every instance, the bones had been affected with curvature previous to the indisposition ; and that the flatness of the ribs, and prominence of the breast-bone, arose from the pressure in lifting up and down a very heavy child. It is readily admitted however, that there may be other causes of general debility, and its consequences, some of which have been already suggested. In proportion to the narrowness of the chest, will the contents be pressed down

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upon the diaphragm, and thus affecting the belly, become an additional cause of its enlargement, which is now the most distinguishing symptom, accompanied with hardness, frequent pains in the gastric region, and a purging of frothy offensive stools. The pain and enlargement of the belly, instead of being abated, are usually aggravated by this symptom, and the patient is soon carried off, as is supposed, by convulsions of the bowels. In other instances, patients become\* dropical in the last stage of this disease, and that is the supposed cause of their death; but there are many examples of children having diseased mesenteric glands, unaccompanied with any of the distinguishing external symptoms here described. These waste away daily, until nothing apparently remains but the bones covered with the skin. In proportion to the

\* In some cases that I have had the opportunity of examining, which were dropical, I have found the fluid thick, and apparently mixed with matter, which I have attributed to a suppuration of some mesenteric glands.

progress of the disease in the mesenteric glands, will its consequences be quicker or slower, and the patients will die of a true marasmus or general atrophy. A case of this kind is related by Dr. Douglass in the Philosophical Transactions.

“ The subject was a boy about four or five  
 “ years of age, that died of a general atro-  
 “ phy or consumption of all the muscular  
 “ fleshy parts of the body, occasioned un-  
 “ doubtedly from the many glandulous swell-  
 “ ings scattered up and down the whole  
 “ mesentery, which by compressing the  
 “ Lymphatic vessels, called in this place  
 “ Vasa-Lactea, prevented the access and  
 “ supply of the chyle, so necessary for the  
 “ continued nourishment and increase of the  
 “ parts ; for without the constant recruit of  
 “ this whitish balsamic liquor, the mass of  
 “ blood will in a short time be unfit to per-  
 “ form any of those offices, which a fresh  
 “ accession of chyle qualifies it for.”



“ Mr. Sheldon has observed in the first part  
 “ of his History of the Absorbent System,  
 “ that in many subjects, he had found all  
 “ the Lacteal glands entirely obstructed, and  
 “ that the chyle was conveyed to the thoracic  
 “ duct by means of the anastomosing col-  
 “ lateral branches.” On this he makes the  
 following remark ; viz. “ Since the alter-  
 “ ation which the chyle undergoes in  
 “ healthy subjects cannot take place in these  
 “ distempered habits, because the cells of  
 “ glands are stuffed up, and the chyle is pre-  
 “ vented from entering into them ; may we  
 “ not readily account for the subject becom-  
 “ ing impoverished, thin, and consumptive  
 “ in these cases ? Page 50, 51.”

But the obstruction may not be in so great a degree as to terminate in the death of the child, though sufficient to prevent the supply of a necessary quantity of nutriment, for the support and increase of the body ; more especially if the disease has been incurred by improper feeding, and want of exercise.

Enlargements

Enlargements and obstructions of the Lymphatic glands of the lungs, liver, spleen, and bronchia, also frequently happen.

In incipient obstructions of the Lymphatic glands of the lungs, the most distinguishing symptoms are, a hard dry cough, difficulty of breathing, especially upon an increased action of the vessels, whether from quick exercise or any other cause. There will be a sense of fulness, and the patient will complain of a difficulty of breathing, and occasionally be subject to an obtuse dull pain under the shoulder-blade, in the side, or under the breast. The pulse varies, but is seldom very quick or very full; the patient coughs hard and frequently, yet expectorates little; there is a frothy mucus which proceeds from the fauces, and is occasioned by the action of coughing. If the disease should continue its progress, it terminates in suppuration, producing phthisis pulmonalis, or consumption; a disease very common in this country,

country, and particularly in the \* metro-  
polis.

There is yet greater difficulty in distinguishing the diseases of the liver and spleen, especially when they are first affected. Both these bowels are commonly found to be larger than in a sound healthy state, and the patient is observed to waste away without any apparent cause. There is occasionally a sense of pain and uneasiness in the region of the liver, but seldom any defect in the secretion of the bile; for in livers considerably diseased, I have found the usual quantity of bile in the cyst or gall-bladder. The pulse,

\* The average number that dies of this disease, according to the bills of mortality, is upwards of four thousand annually; and I am thoroughly persuaded, the greatest part of that number originated in diseased Lymphatic glands of the lungs. At the same time I do not pretend to say, that all those reported by the bills to die of consumption, died of phthisis pulmonalis. I have no doubt but obstructed mesenteric glands, and other diseases may have been the cause of death to many supposed to have died of consumption.

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the appetite, and the excretions vary according to particular circumstances.

When the Lymphatic glands of the bronchia are the seat of the disease, the patient coughs a great deal and is very hoarse. If this should not be attended to, the glands here, as in other parts of the body, may acquire a degree of hardness and insensibility, which will sometimes render it very difficult to excite them to action; and the patients may continue with that disagreeable hoarseness for many years; nay, perhaps, during the remainder of their lives.

These are the usual symptoms I have observed, whilst the disease confined itself to the Lymphatic glands of the mesentery, liver, bronchia, and lungs; but for affording a more certain diagnostic, they are most frequently accompanied with some external symptoms, such as enlargements of the Lymphatic glands under the chin, and round the neck; sometimes one only, in other instances,

stances, several. They are commonly hard, circumscribed swellings, without the least discolouration of the skin, and so little painful that they are most frequently discovered by accident, in washing the neck, or combing the hair, and thence are supposed to have been produced very suddenly. When this is the first symptom observed of the disease it is commonly termed a falling of the almonds of the ears, which is accompanied with considerable pain and stiffness of the neck; but it is more frequent to find numbers of those glands enlarged, and upon enquiry, that they have been of considerable duration.

It often happens that similar tumours appear on the fingers, upon the back of the hand, the fore-arm, just below the elbow on the outside, and above the elbow in the inside, and arm-pit. It is not unfrequent to trace them, in the manner here described, from the finger to the hand, and so on.

Similar



Similar appearances and progress take place in the lower extremities, from the toe to the upper part of the foot, and to the leg, just above the ankle; likewise upon the shin immediately below the knee, and above it also, upon the thigh, and even so far up as the groin.

Those affections of the Eyes and eyelashes, that are accompanied with diseased Lymphatic glands are usually termed Strumous. Eruptions on the back part of the head, roughness of the skin, particularly about the face, little ulcerations in the nose, and eruptions in different parts of the body, as they are very common to children that have other symptoms of diseased Lymphatic glands, have also been ascribed to the same source.

The Tinea Capitis or scald head, may not perhaps strictly be a symptom in itself of the Struma; but of a great number that I have had under my care, it has uniformly been accompanied with swellings of the Lymphatic glands round the neck.

The lips are frequently affected with considerable thickness, often accompanied by eruptions round the mouth, and, in bad habits, by deep and painful ulcers. The nose is also enlarged, with ulcerations in the inside, and a considerable increase of mucous discharge, that proves very troublesome to children. The sides of the face just by the ear, upon the upper jaw and near the eye are occasionally diseased, and, without great care, very much disfigure the patient.

Those tumours, which we have mentioned as hard circumscribed swellings without pain or discolouration of the skin, will, with an increase of the complaint, grow larger, look red in the middle, and become painful; and as suppuration goes forward, the redness extends itself, the pain increases, and a fluctuation may be easily felt. If no artificial opening is made, it is often a long time, in weakly and debilitated habits, before these tumours break of themselves, and when that happens, the opening is generally very small,  
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the size of a pin-hole. Sometimes there are two or three of these small openings, from which is discharged a thin ferous liquid, sometimes mixed with matter, and occasionally little white particles, not unlike a small portion of a nut-kernel, but by no means so hard. This discharge, which is often considerable in quantity, may, without proper assistance, continue for months, and sometimes even years.

The breasts of women are often the seat of this disease, sometimes from blows, or other accidents, and at the age of menstruation; but more frequently at the time this evacuation becomes irregular, when it deserves their particular attention. It also often happens while suckling, from cold, retaining the milk too long, and, without proper care, at the time of weaning the child.

It is not unfrequent for the Testes to be the seat of this complaint: this happens more frequently to young men, from the age of fourteen to eighteen; not but instances

are very common in older men, where there is not the least reason to suspect any venereal infection ; but most probably those that have had diseased testes, whether from Lues Venerea, or any other cause, will be most subject to this complaint.

It frequently happens that the deeper Lymphatics of the back, upper part of the thigh, and about the joints, are diseased ; often, I believe, from external injury, by straining, or perhaps rupturing the Lymphatic vessels in that particular part ; at other times, from contusions, or inflammation. I have sometimes thought that there was a degree of resemblance between those tumours, the aneurismal, and varicose, making a due allowance for the different order of vessels. It is often a long time before we are enabled rightly to determine what the complaint is, and its exact situation : children are the most frequently affected, and their information is commonly vague, and dissatisfactory ; sometimes they complain of pain, in and about  
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the hip joint, then of the knee, of the back, and of the groin. When the disease is in the hip, constituting what is called the *hip-case*, we should particularly attend to the action of that joint. I have met with many cases, where I had no doubt but the primary seat of the disease was within the capsular ligament, and at other times deeply seated among the muscles. The first case has been often mistaken for a dislocation of the thigh, which now and then happens in the progress of the disease; and there would be an error in endeavouring to remedy the complaint by reducing the dislocation which has been often attempted. The pain is sometimes very acute, especially during the night, sometimes there are cold shiverings and a subsequent fever. The appetite and pulse are variable, according to the degree of pain and other circumstances.

The first external appearance will be an enlargement of the upper part of the thigh, which will be best discovered by placing the  
child



child on its face, and comparing the two nates or buttocks. There is a weakness of the whole limb, and it soon becomes relaxed, and emaciated. From the tumour being deeply seated there may, at first, be no discoverable fluctuation ; but as the tumour increases, a fluctuation will be felt. The skin then appears stretched, and puts on a shining appearance, yet without any external inflammation, or great degree of pain upon examining it with the finger, if the limb is not moved. Thus it continues extending its dimensions during, perhaps, the space of one or two years, the patient growing weaker and more emaciated. The tumour may now be supposed to have become very large, extending from the upper part of the thigh down towards the knee ; the skin is then very thin, as well as more sensible to the touch, and often for some weeks it may be hourly expected to burst in one, two, or more places. When it is broke, the contents will be found in most instances to resemble the serum of blood or whey, and the white parts that float

float in it, not unlike the curd ; at other times, it is mixed with matter. The quantity is often very considerable, from one to three pints ; after which, it will continue to discharge a thin ferous liquid, in immense quantities daily, by which the poor emaciated patient is extremely weakened, and, in most cases, without the greatest attention, the disease proves fatal.

When this complaint is in the lower part of the back, we have still more difficulty in investigating the case ; there is nothing to be seen or felt for a great length of time, but the patient complains of occasional pains, sometimes more acute than others, probably from the alteration in the habit of body ; he complains most upon bending forward, and is observed to kneel in order to take any thing from the ground. It is nearly the same when the tumour points towards the groin ; in this case the patient bends to one side, and as this, very often (like the hip-case) goes on for months, nay even years, the child, to avoid  
 pain

pain (though not very acute) from the action of the muscles which press upon the part, naturally gives way, and becomes deformed.

The first appearance externally, will be a large extended tumour, without much pain or discolouration of the skin, until it becomes very thin, when it looks red, and is painful to the touch: these cases are nearly alike in their symptoms, contents of the tumour, and in the event. The symptomatic fever fluctuates according to circumstances.

When this disease happens about the joints, it is commonly called the White Swelling. Though this term is generally applied to the knee, yet it is equally applicable to every joint affected with this complaint.

There may be diseases of the joint from different causes, but I shall confine myself to that only which arises from Strumous affection. The Lymphatic glands surrounding the joint are frequently affected, and exhibit  
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the true White Swelling. This, like other affections of the Lymphatics, is at first but little painful, there is only a stiffness of the joint, or, in other words, a sense of pain in bending, or fully extending the limb. If we examine it carefully in this stage, we shall find one or more small tumours about the joint ; as they increase in magnitude, they become more painful, and the action of the joint more circumscribed ; the limb gradually wastes ; and as the tumour enlarges, a fluctuation will be felt. The skin becomes reddish, shining, and, according to concurring circumstances, is the pain more or less acute, especially when the part is touched ; and as has before been observed, it is often a considerable time before it breaks. When this happens, the discharge is generally a white glary fluid ; at other times mixed with matter, and in some instances, like the contents of the large tumours before described. The concomitant symptoms are nearly alike. But I consider this as of less consequence to the patient, where

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the ligaments of the joints are not affected, than either of the preceding cases.

If the Periosteum is morbid, whether from external injury, or any other cause, the bone will probably in the event become diseased. I have sometimes conjectured, that a ruptured or diseased Lymphatic depositing its contents between the Periosteum and bone, may be one cause of diseased bones ; and, indeed, I am inclined to consider this as the most common cause of the diseased small bones of the fingers and toes of children.

The first appearance of this complaint about the fingers or toes is attended with little or no pain, and the enlargement of the part affected is generally the first circumstance that calls for attention. The part is hard and will bear a certain degree of pressure without any extraordinary sense of pain ; nor is the use of the finger impeded in this stage ; but as the tumour increases in magnitude it is more painful, the skin becomes red and  
inflamed,



inflamed, and consequently more sensible. If left to break of itself, it will be often tedious, and when that event has taken place, the discharge is but small in quantity, and there will still remain a hard extended tumour all around the finger or toe. The skin will be of a deep red colour; there will be a discharge of a thin serous fluid for a great length of time; and the disease generally terminates in an exfoliation of the bone.

## C H A P. VIII.

### *P R O G N O S T I C.*

**I**N our prognostic, the first object of inquiry is, the habit of body of the patient; and whether the complaint, under consideration, be local, or only a symptom of a generally diseased habit: when local, the particular situation of the part affected, and if possible the immediate occasional cause. If the disease is confined to a particular part, in most instances it will be favourable to the

patient ; but where there are many parts affected, we must be governed in our opinion by the progress of the disease in the system, the time it may be supposed to have existed, and the degree of strength of the patient ; not to mention the advantage of possessing the means which are requisite towards the recovery.

## C H A P. IX.

### *P R E V E N T I V E S.*

**P**REVENTION of disease has long been considered of so much importance, as to become a proverbial phrase ; and in no instance can the application of it be more proper, or deserve more serious attention, than in the disease under our present consideration.

In very young children, the prevention of a complaint so general and so alarming in its consequences, will principally depend upon a proper attention to air, cleanliness, exercise, and diet ; and when more advanced, the  
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form, age, and constitution of the patient, will be the best guide for determining what kind of regimen, and what other means may be best suited to this important object.

An impure atmosphere must be injurious to health at every period of life ; but particularly to young children. The air of large cities, is of itself prejudicial ; in proportion to the narrowness of the streets, and the small size of the houses, and rooms, the number of its inhabitants, and the degree of cleanliness, will it be more or less noxious. Children confined, and obliged to breathe unwholesome air, may be compared to vegetables in a room, so tender, that a blast of air destroys them ; and the habit of body of those children seems rather to invite disease, than resist its attack. The consequences are evident in all epidemic complaints. Children, and even adults, suffer more in large cities, and the confined parts of them, than in the country. Those therefore, who cannot breathe the purer air of the country, but  
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are of necessity confined to large cities, should adopt the best expedients for alleviating the bad effects of their situation. Cleanliness is absolutely necessary, and a free circulation of air by every possible means. It may also be necessary, when in the country, to change the situation. There is certainly a very essential difference, in the winter time particularly, between the high hills of Highgate and Hampstead, and the places at the same distance on the Surry-side of the Thames. This distinction is more observable in the northern counties of England, and those towards the south-west.

Cleanliness of the person is of yet greater consequence than that of the habitation; as the want of it is often the immediate cause of disease. The ulcerations behind the ears, in the neck, under the arms, and in the groins of children, are very frequently owing to a want of cleanliness. There is a considerable discharge through the pores of the skin of young children, which, if not attended

tended to, in a short time, excoriates and inflames the parts ; and if these circumstances should be disregarded for a few days, the case will most frequently require surgical aid. If the discharge, through the pores of the skin, proves so soon detrimental, what must be the effect, if children are often permitted to lie wet and dirty, and that for a considerable length of time. I have somewhere seen this mentioned as one of the most common occasional causes of the Struma ; but the least inconvenience of their lying wet, is, that it is soon followed by excoriations and ulcerations. To prevent the ill effects of this plentiful transudation through the pores of the skin, various absorbents are applied ; such as Fuller's earth, hair powder, common flower, and, what is not quite so innocent, a preparation of lead, called ceruss powder. But there will be little occasion for the use of these different means, if the linen is changed as often as necessary, and the child washed clean every night and morning, and then wiped quite dry.

Exercise



Exercise is of vast importance. Some people will wonder what can be the exercise of infants : it is true, they can exercise themselves but very little ; and, even in that, they are obstructed by their dress. If children are permitted, they will very soon exercise their limbs, and, in short, every muscle in the body. When moved up and down in the hands of the nurse, they draw up, and extend their legs and arms ; and if this was frequently done, it would be very good exercise. After a few months, to those who cannot afford a servant for the purposes of nursing, I would strongly recommend placing the child on the floor in preference to the cradle. Besides the advantages already described of washing, the rubbing afterwards is extremely beneficial. This is a mode of exercise generally practised by the natives of the East, where, from the heat of the climate, they are prevented from using those exercises to which we are accustomed in Europe.

Young

Young children are never so happy as when undressed; the best proof of this, is their actions, and the evident gratification it is to them, together with their crying the moment you begin to clothe them. This, I think, should be a sufficient reason never to dress them too tight; and contrary to the general opinion, as soon as they are able, they should be exercised on their feet; for, when once they can walk, if they are well, they want but little encouragement to that exercise.

With respect to diet, when children take the breast (which is undoubtedly the method most natural and the best suited to their early months), only one or two observations are necessary. These are, not to suckle them too frequently, or too long at a time. To keep them at the breast until their stomachs nauseate, is very improper; and it is not uncommon to see children empty their stomachs from the load it contained; but the next moment they are again applied to the breast, because they cry. The crying was most probably

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bably occasioned by the quantity of milk already distending the stomach, rendering respiration difficult, and creating that uneasy sensation, which is felt from nausea and vomiting: therefore to suckle them again, is to renew that complaint, as well as to lay the foundation of others. If the mother's, or nurse's milk should be insufficient, which is sometimes the case, or if it becomes necessary to substitute another kind of food, the milk of animals, with the addition of the different farinaceous substances, is preferable to solid food. When they are more advanced, a small quantity of animal food, once a day, may be very proper, and is certainly preferable to heavy puddings and bad pastry. Children should be diverted from that pernicious general custom of eating from morning to night; I would not have them kept many hours without food; but by no means to be indulged with eatables of any kind for a continuance.

Cold

Cold bathing may be very properly considered as a preventive of the Struma, and, indeed, of many other diseases; particularly those which arise from relaxation and debility. That of the sea, experience proves to be preferable to fresh water, perhaps, from its being more temperate, accompanied with a better air generally, and with more exercise.

Some attention should be paid to the manner of clothing children. In the winter they should be clothed warmer than during summer. This is not much attended to, notwithstanding it is so often productive of very painful tumours and ulcers, and is a very frequent immediate cause of diseased Lymphatic glands. When this happens, it is a clear proof of a defect in the natural warmth; and therefore we should have recourse to the best substitutes, warm clothing, a full diet, and brisk exercise. These attentions will appear very necessary, if we consult our own feelings, or reflect upon the great difference in the temperature of the atmosphere during

summer and winter, to which we may in some degree, accommodate ourselves by different kinds of clothing.

One other circumstance is particularly deserving notice, I mean the encouraging children to sleep; than which there is not a greater error. Children are naturally too much inclined to sleep, and, therefore, when this habit predominates, some methods should be used to divert their attention.

If what has been said upon the subject of air, cleanliness, exercise, and diet, should have sufficient influence to excite the attention of prudent mothers and nurses, together with such improvements as will naturally occur from time to time, under their own inspection, I think there is no doubt, but diseases in general, as well as the Struma, may be in a great measure prevented; and though the preceding remarks have been confined to children, the application may be made to persons in every stage of life.

CHAP.



## C H A P. X.

*Observations upon the present Method of treating the Struma or King's Evil.*

THE cure of diseases has always been justly considered as the ultimate object of physic ; and there is no distemper incident to the human body, which has more exercised the artifices of those who pretend to a thorough knowledge of effectual remedies than that of the Struma. It has been, and I believe is, to this day, a principal support of *Empirics*, and probably for the following reasons. The habit being for the most part generally affected before the symptoms of the disease are discovered, recourse must necessarily be had to alterative medicines ; and as these are slow in their operations, the impatience of the sick, or of their friends, for a more favourable change, which they had expected, at length, induces them to abandon the prescriptions

scriptions of regular practitioners, and resort to the assistance of *Empirics*, who flatter them with the most positive, but fallacious assurances of a speedy and effectual cure.

Very numerous, and widely different in their effects, are the medicines which have been recommended for the cure of the Struma. Indeed, the whole *Materia Medica*, ancient and modern, has been ransacked for a specific in this disease ; and it scarcely contains one medicine which has not, at some period, been reputed as useful against Scrofulous complaints. But I shall quit this hypothetical subject, to enquire how far the present method of treating the disease under consideration, is either founded upon just principles, or recommended by its success,

The general idea of the Struma is, that it is a disease of debility, and therefore the great object is to invigorate the habit by every possible means ; the chief of which are, tonic medicines, and sea-bathing. Some are  
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of opinion that in the case of young patients, this should be continued during the summer months, every year to the age of fourteen or sixteen. Many recommend it, not only in the summer, but throughout the year; whilst others are for administering alteratives, principally the alkaline salts, with or without antimonials, and the different tonics during winter; and the sea-water and sea-bathing, or cold bathing during summer, for a continuance of two or three years from the commencement of the disease: with this general observation, that they will out-grow the complaint. It is certain, if nature is enabled by these means to conquer the present indisposition, as they grow older, they will be less susceptible of this and other diseases. The chief external means are, fomentations of sea-water, and cataplasms made with the same.

With respect to the regimen, some recommend a milk and vegetable diet, whilst others declare themselves no less warmly in favour of animal food and fermented liquors.

Having

Having now, I hope, fairly exhibited the general methods at present in use of treating the Struma, it would be a subject of great importance to ascertain by unquestionable facts, how far they are really efficacious. As I have been particularly conversant in the cure of this complaint for many years, I can safely affirm, that in general, they are not, though I will not deny that in some instances, they may prove of utility. In early affections of the Lymphatic glands, from want of breathing a pure air, or a want of proper exercise, where children are delicate and irritable; a change of situation to the sea side, where they have free air and exercise, together with bathing, when they have acquired some strength, must be exceedingly proper; and in gross plethoric subjects, who have diseased Lymphatics, from improper feeding, and want of necessary exercise, a journey to the sea coast may be very useful, particularly, if the salt water is drank often, and in a quantity sufficient to become purgative. This, with  
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the novelty of their situation, which may naturally produce an increase of exercise, might answer every expectation; but these are the kind of cases, that with very little attention are easily cured. Do we find, however, the method above described, to answer our hopes, where the disease is more general, when we have reason to believe the mesenteric glands are much affected, the lungs diseased; or in hip cases, and those of the joints? It is common for the patients, or their friends, to suppose the complaint better at first; but, I believe, that arises commonly from the spirits of the patients, or their friends, being raised by expectation, and the mind relieved by the change of situation; or, perhaps, a still more powerful cause, seeing a variety of objects, equally bad, or worse than themselves. For my own part, out of many whom I have advised to sea bathing, and of a much greater number prescribed it by others, by far the majority, where the disease affected the general habit,

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if they lived to return, became gradually worse than when they went. Of its utility as a preventive, and in the early stages of the disease, too much cannot be said in its commendation.

Again, are the means, above recited, such as would be thought advisable in diseased Lymphatic glands from other causes? Would it not, be thought extremely absurd (generally speaking) in Buboes or diseased testes, whether from Lues Venerea, or any other cause, to recommend cold bathing and tonic medicines; or, in the case of a blow upon the skin, producing inflammation, affecting the Lymphatic glands of the groin; or from the absorption of morbid matter, by a wounded finger, exciting induration of the glands of the arm and axilla? I believe, in such cases, cold bathing and the bark, would be the last means thought of.

That a proper regimen, cleanliness, and a pure atmosphere, are great aids to nature, no one will dispute; hence it appears to me, that  
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the most that can be said, in support, of the present plan, is, that seasonably applied, it may be in many instances, a good preventive; and, that it has the good effect of supporting the patient under the disease, leaving the curative part to nature. No one can less object to that mode of treating diseases where means of relief are not clearly obvious, than myself; but repeated experience authorises me to say, that nature's efforts, in the cure of this disease, is, at all times, exceedingly slow: and, where any considerable progress is made, very often entirely ineffectual. I know of no complaint affecting the human body, where the interposition of art is more requisite, and, when properly applied, more conducive to the general good of the patient.

Electricity is also a remedy of late frequently recommended in Strumous cases. It has its advantages, particularly in those cases where, from length of time, the enlarged glands have acquired a degree of hardness and insensibility. I have sometimes known happy

effects produced by electricity, in cases of this kind, where most other means had failed; but how far an application productive of stimulus, may be used in glandular obstructions, must be left to the discretion of the Surgeon, and the desire of the patient.

## C H A P. XI.

### *METHOD OF TREATMENT.*

**I** Shall now beg leave to offer to the consideration of the medical profession such curative indications as are the result of repeated experience, and seem to be perfectly consistent with the established principles of the animal œconomy. To accomplish this as briefly as possible, it will be necessary for us to divide the different symptoms and appearances of the Struma, into two classes, or stages of the disease.

To the first, belong all those different symptoms that are accompanied with an inflammatory

flammatory *Diatheſis*, and are in moſt inſtances local; and to the ſecond, the different ſymptoms and appearances, accompanied with great debility, or a more general affection of the Lymphatic ſyſtem. This diſtinction will be more neceſſary, as the mode of treatment will be very different.

If attention to air, exerciſe, and the other requiſites, were neceſſary to the prevention of diſeaſe, it will be needleſs to point out their advantages in checking the progreſs of it, and their great utility in promoting a recovery.

Almoſt all the firſt ſymptoms of this diſeaſe, whether internal of the meſentery, bronchia, lungs, and liver; or external, ſuch as ſwellings of the lips, ſide of the face, under the chin, and round the neck; or the different ſymptoms uſually conſidered as Strumous, viz. roughneſs of the ſkin, eruptions of the back part of the head, and different parts of the body, redneſs and ſwelling of  
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the eye-lids and eyes; I say all these different symptoms are generally accompanied with an inflammatory *Diathefis*, and by an early attention may be remedied with very little difficulty. The inflammation however has seldom been so great as to require bleeding, but I have never hesitated to take away blood where there has appeared the least necessity.

The medicines that I have found efficacious in removing the symptoms here enumerated, are the *Mercurius Dulcis sexies sub.* This medicine seems to have a peculiar quality in removing obstructions of the Lymphatic glands. We ought to avoid giving it in such a quantity as to render it a powerful evacuant, either by the intestines, or any other way; I have usually given it in small doses at night going to bed. By that means, it remains longer in the intestinal canal, a greater quantity is taken into the habit, and the patient is less susceptible of cold, than when taken in the day time; nor will it preclude



clude any usual exercise, or employment the following day. The first, and perhaps the second dose, may prove purgative, which is in general a salutary effect, but afterwards, the same quantity will seldom do more than is sufficient to keep the body open; and should it fail of answering that purpose, I have usually recommended some gentle purgative every third or fourth morning, according to circumstances. If there should be a prevailing acidity, a few grains of the *Sal Sodæ*, *Magnesia*, or some testaceous powder, may be added to the medicine. By this simple method, most of the symptoms before mentioned will, in a short time, disappear; but if the tumours should continue hard, and retain their figure without dividing into smaller ones, we may derive some benefit from external applications, particularly the steam of warm water. I have used a variety of medicated herbs with success; but am inclined to believe, that the advantage was principally derived from the warm steam, which has this additional circumstance in its favour, of not  
being

being the least offensive. At other times, I have stimulated the part affected by electricity, insulating the patient, and drawing sparks from the tumour, until a slight degree of inflammation was excited. After the application of the steam, or the use of the electrical machine, I have sometimes rubbed a little of the *Unguentum Mercuriale* into the tumour, and neighbouring parts, or applied the *Emplastrum Saponaceum*, or *Murcuriale cum Ammoniaco* over the swelling. This will most frequently remove those obstructions; but supposing the tumours should be disposed to suppuration, we have nothing to apprehend in habits of this kind; they will suppurate kindly, and, in most instances, will not only heal without much trouble, but by proper care, leave little or no cicatrix behind. To the eruptions of the head, may be applied a little *Unguentum Saturninum*,—*Album Camphoratum*, or the *Ceratum Album*.

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The roughness of the skin, which is often followed by \* general eruptions, will also commonly require some external application. Lotions of the *Aqua Vegeto-Mineralis*, *Aqua Calcis*, solutions of *Sal. Tartar.* or *Mercurius Corrosivus sublimat.* may be made use of: this last will seldom fail to check the progress of the complaint, and dry the sores; and, in the quantity of ten or twelve grains to a quart of warm water, the use of it will not be productive of any pain. If the eruption should ulcerate, and require any unctuous application to prevent the adhesion of the linen, the ointment before mentioned may be applied; the best remedy will be warm bathing, and chiefly that with salt water. I have occasionally recommended those medicines that promote the motion of the fluids in the smaller vessels, viz. *Vinum Antimoniale*,

\* This is certainly as distinct a disease from the Struma, as that of the Dropsy; but as it very commonly accompanies enlargements of the glands under the chin, and round the neck, I have here taken notice of it.

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*Tartarum*

*Tartarum Emeticum*, *Decoctum Lusitanicum*, *Decoctum Lignorum*, or, *Sarsaparilla*; and have sometimes derived advantage from artificial drains; but this kind of eruption generally happens in the winter season, and often continues until the warm weather comes on. If that does not prove a remedy, it is generally very troublesome to remove.

Affections of the eye-lid may be easily remedied, if early attended to; when there is an increased secretion of mucus, we should make use of some astringent lotion, as the *Aqua Calcis Simplicis*, *Aqua Vegeto-Mineralis*, solutions of *Alumen*, or *Vitriolum Album*; and use some unctuous application at night, to prevent the adhesion of the eye-lids during sleep. The Saturnine ointment very well answers the purpose. This, with a proper attention to regimen, and the internal remedies here recommended, will generally be found to answer every expectation; but if suffered to go on for a length of time, or in people much advanced in life, they often prove  
very

very troublesome. Blifters laid upon the temples after the application of leeches, and the Tinct. *Thebaica*, dropt into the eye, are sometimes very ferviceable ; and in delicate, and very irritable habits, the *Cortex*, and the general clafs of tonic medicines will be found very ufeul. The cure of the Tinea or fcauld head is often troublesome. By giving fmall dofes of Calomel, and applying to the head the *Mercurius Præcipitatus albus*, with the *unguentum Saturninum*, I have fucceeded better than by any other means.

Where the difeafe has affected the teftes, we muft particularly attend to the fufpending the fcrotum by a bag-trufs ; otherwife, the weight of the enlarged gland will bring on an inflammation of the fpermatic chord, and occafion a great deal of pain. A horizontal pofition will be the eafieft to the patient. In this cafe it will be proper to take blood from the arm, and to purge with a folution of neutral falts ; after which, the *Mercurius Dulcis* may be given to advantage, in the manner before recommended,



and the warm steam applied to the part affected. In some cases I have found external stimulants very useful, such as *Sp<sup>a</sup>. Mindereri*, or *Tinctura Myrrhæ cum Aloë*. When the swelling is in a certain degree subsided, we must not relax in the regimen, otherwise, there may remain a small hard swelling of the *Epididymis*, frequently very troublesome to remove.

In affections of the breast, two circumstances merit particular attention. These are, the age of the patient, and the immediate cause of the complaint,

In young women, about the age of puberty, the medicines before recommended will be found to answer every expectation. When from soreness of the nipples, or any other cause, by which the milk is retained too long, and the glands are enlarged, they sometimes subside, as the cause of their enlargement abates; but there are frequent instances where, after suppuration has taken place, and a  
perfect

perfect cicatrix is formed, there will remain large hard tumours in the breast. We must here be careful in the use of *Calomel*, as we shall otherwise frequently find it produce little or no change upon the mother, but very much to affect the child; causing severe pains in the bowels, a considerable degree of fever, and sometimes even convulsions. In cases of this kind, I have been particularly successful, by the use of the warm steam.\* This will often produce a sensible change during the application of it; which should be repeated twice or thrice a day, and a piece of flannel or skin afterwards applied. The body should be kept in a soluble state by some gentle opening medicine. Of such cases, the

\* For this purpose, I have made a small tin machine, that contains a pint and a half, or two pints of boiling water. From the top runs a narrow tube, ten or twelve inches long, through which the steam passes; near the end that is moveable and curved, is a joint, for the greater convenience of applying the tube to the parts diseased. The water is easily kept boiling by a lamp under the machine.

most

the most tedious that I have met with, originated from too long a neglect of the complaint. The consequence was that one supuration followed another, until the whole breast has become diseased, and the complaint even extends to the axilla. Here in addition to the external means, it will be necessary to give some kind of medicine besides the gentle aperients before recommended : the different preparations of mercury, according to the strength of the patient, are to be preferred ; and should they affect the child much, it will be proper to suspend suckling (at least for a time) and to prescribe some other nutriment. Diseased breasts often proceed from the obstruction or irregularity, of some customary evacuation, and if seasonably, and properly attended to, may be easily removed by the general means I have already recommended.

In obstructions of the Bronchial glands, in addition to the internal use of some mild alterative medicines, the patient should carefully avoid exposure to cold, and keep the  
fauces

fauces moist by frequently drinking warm diluent liquids. The steam of warm water, by means of *Mudge's Inhaler*, will be very useful; and, externally, a piece of skin or flannel applied over the breast.

When diseases make their appearance externally, or are so violent in their onset, as to produce sudden changes in the body, no room is left for any doubt, with respect to their existence. But great danger is to be apprehended from those insidious complaints that make their first attack upon the internal parts of the body, unaccompanied with any alarming symptoms, until they have made so great a progress, that it is uncertain whether the utmost power of art can stop their course, and prevent fatal consequences.

*Consumption* is one of those diseases that too often steal on unperceived; and though mankind seem to be particularly jealous of this malady, yet, from unacquaintance with its different causes, they are not sufficiently  
upon



upon their guard against its invasion. A diseased state of the lungs, arising from general, or particular inflammation, is commonly accompanied with pain, and other symptoms, sufficiently urgent to excite the attention of the patient, and every one about him; but this is seldom the case when the disorder proceeds from a Strumous affection. The present method of treating this disease is very exceptionable; the business is left almost entirely to nature, though the want of success affords convincing proof, that something more than her efforts is necessary.

Regimen and antiphlogistic treatment often prove so far a palliative, that the urgent symptoms are alleviated; but the slightest cause shall bring on all its usual symptoms afresh, and, sooner or later, in most instances, it ultimately proves fatal. Besides the regimen observed at present in consumptive cases arising from Strumous affection, I would earnestly recommend the exhibiting such medicines as have a tendency to remove those  
obstructions



obstructions which are the foundation of the disease. Balsamics and expectorants appear to do but little; and, I believe, more patients have been hitherto preserved by a strict attention to regimen than by all the medicines they had taken. The idea of exhibiting mercury, in any form, to a consumptive patient, is in danger of being generally exploded, as unwarrantable practice, though there seems reason to suspect, that this prejudice is, in reality, more precipitate than well founded. It is true, the introduction of mercury into the habit, will, for a time, become a stimulus; so does the application of a blister, and (to consumptive patients) almost every kind of medicine, or even the lightest food.

But let us remember the distinction before remarked: patients who are consumptive in consequence of a Strumous affection, have not that degree of irritability, which generally accompanies this disease, when proceeding from other causes. I am of opinion, that the milder preparations of mercury might

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be

be given with the greatest safety. I have, in several instances,\* experienced their utility, but never yet knew any case in which they proved detrimental.

A removal to a milder climate, especially during the winter months, is the most beneficial resource with which we are hitherto acquainted.

But the most general, and, therefore, the most important object of our attention, is to remove early obstructions of the Lymphatic glands in the mesentery. This seems to be the region primarily affected in most children; I mean those under the age of three years; and a morbid state of this part often

\* To a number of patients who had external symptoms of the Struma, and whose lungs, there was every reason to believe, were likewise affected with the same disease, I have given some of the mild preparations of mercury, with the *Vinum Antimoniale*, *Tartarum Emeticum*, *Pilul. e Styrace*, or some similar class of medicines, and was perfectly satisfied with their effects.

lays

lays the foundation of a diseased habit, which never can be afterwards eradicated. I have been particular in describing the symptoms usually attendant upon early obstructions of the Mesenteric glands, because I am persuaded it is the most general complaint of children in this country. I fear that it is likewise the least known, or, what it is yet worse, the least attended to.

It evidently appears, that, annually, great numbers die of consumption; yet I will venture to say, many more in the same space of time, die of diseased Mesenteric glands, registered in the Bills of Mortality, under the head of Worms, Rickets, Convulsions, and different diseases of the bowels.

This affection of the Mesenteric glands was particularly noticed by *Wiseman*, the most eminent of any writer upon the subject; and he has so clearly declared his sentiments upon it, that I shall beg leave to present the reader with his own words:—"If the out-

“ ward and more visible glands remain  
 “ whole, yet, generally speaking, the in-  
 “ ward ones, those especially of the Mesen-  
 “ tery, are obstructed, and swelled; of these,  
 “ I have seen divers examples, and have pas-  
 “ sed my judgement, that they have been  
 “ Strumous, when the outer signs could not  
 “ so far justify my conjecture, as to make  
 “ others of my mind; yet when the patient  
 “ has been dead, the truth hath appeared,  
 “ upon dissection.”

The *Mercurius Dulcis sex. sublimat.* is a  
 remedy extremely well adapted to this com-  
 plaint. By keeping the body open, it serves  
 as the best palliative, at the same time that  
 it operates towards removing the cause of the  
 disease. I am not conscious of over-rating its  
 efficacy, when I affirm that it seems to me  
 almost a specific for this symptom of the  
 Struma. I have generally given it at night  
 going to bed; in a dose sufficient to empty the  
 bowels once, or twice, the following morn-  
 ing; and, according to the strength of the  
 patient,

patient, it is to be repeated every other, or every third night. In some cases, where the Calomel, given alone, has not answered this end, I have added a few grains of Rhubarb, and Sal Polychrest. or administered these auxiliaries in the morning. If mixed with a little common flour, it may be generally given without the least suspicion. If there should be a prevailing acidity, as is very frequent, a few grains of Magnesia, or any of the testaceous powders may be added. It has repeatedly been observed to me, that the child has had a better night, after taking the medicine; without those startings in the sleep, which were otherwise usual, and waked with better spirits, better appetite, and more inclined to exercise, than in the intermediate days. It is a common observation, that children bear this medicine without the inconveniences that frequently accompany it in grown persons. The food should be light, and such as will be agreeable to the stomach: milk seems the least exceptionable.

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The body and extremities should be well rubbed every night and morning, particularly after washing. This will have some tendency to remove that degree of languor, which often accompanies the general relaxation usually productive of this disease.

The various abdominal Viscera are, as well as the Mesentery, liable to Scrofulous obstructions, but medical observation affords not such characteristic symptoms, as may, in all cases, enable us to determine, with any degree of certainty, what parts are affected with the disease. This defect of our knowledge, however, has, happily, little influence on practice. For whether we can ascertain the seat of the distemper, or only suspect its situation, the method of cure is, in general, the same with what has been above recommended in obstructions of the Mesentery.

I shall now proceed to make a few remarks on the treatment of those symptoms and appearances, which result from a more generally

rally diseased system, or are usually accompanied with great debility, and relaxation.

It often happens, that the first appearances of obstructed Lymphatic glands have been preceded by the Small-Pox, Measles, Hooping-Cough, Fevers of different kinds, and a habit considerably reduced, and weakened by bad nursing; or, what amounts in effect to the same, by latent obstructions in the Mesenteric glands, preventing a necessary absorption of chyle.

When the debility is caused by diseased Mesenteric glands, we can expect but little benefit from a restorative regimen, until the disease itself is, in part, or wholly, removed. To obtain this important object, I have very successfully employed the same general means as before recommended. We must here make choice of such medicines as will have the least tendency to ruffle the constitution; and of these I should give the preference to *argent. viv. prurif.* intimately united with *mucilages*. The *Unguentum Mercuriale*, likewise,  
has

has great advantages ; particularly in facilitating the exhibition of this valuable mineral to young children. The ointment may be rubbed into the belly, or extremities, every, or every other night, taking care to watch attentively its operation. A tepid bath of milk, or milk and water, would be very proper, to assist the operation of the unguent, and might even contribute to support the patient.

The food should be of the lightest kind, such as asses, or cow's milk, broths not fat, and thin jellies of hartshorn, calve's feet, or isinglafs. Moderate exercise should be used, and in a pure air. A dry healthy country, defended from the Northerly and North-East winds, is the best adapted ; but low, swampy countries, or any situation near to large pieces of standing water, ought to be carefully avoided. The purest and most temperate air is that near the sea-coast.

Costiveness

Costiveness must always be guarded against ; and when the disease has made considerable progress, so that there is a frequent purging of frothy offensive stools, we must have recourse to the occasional use of opiates, and astringent medicines ; interposing, when necessary, a few grains of Rhubarb, to prevent any accumulation of acrid matter.

If during the use of these means, we observe the patient acquire strength and good spirits, we may be assured that a happy change has begun to take place in the diseased parts ; and we may relax, or continue the use of the medicinal course, according to circumstances.

It most frequently happens, that there are some external appearances of the disease. If the glands of the neck, or other parts of the body, should tend to a state of suppuration, they will exhibit a very different aspect from those before described. Their progress to this stage will be extremely slow, the skin will

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appear

appear to be uniformly thin, and of a deep red colour, and the tumour will be flaccid, as if there was a reabsorption. I cannot help here strongly recommending the use of the lancet ; for if no artificial opening is made, it will be a long time before the skin gives way ; and when that happens, the aperture will not only be very small, but often unfavourable in its situation ; the contents will frequently have a nearer resemblance to mucus, than purulent matter, or be a mixture of both ; and the discharge will continue for a great length of time, if no remedy is applied. I have found a solution of Gum Myrrhæ, in Aqua Calcis, used as a lotion, and the Ceratum Saponaceum, or some similar application, externally, the best method of treating this symptom. But our principal object must be to remove the disease from the Mesenteric glands, and use our utmost endeavours to strengthen the system.

With



With respect to the general appearances of the Struma after the Small-Pox, Measles, and long continued Fevers ; in most instances, they will be found to be local, and, by a proper attention to the non-naturals, assisted by some deobstruent medicines, terminate favourably.

The worst species of the disease is that which proceeds from bad nursing. For here, exclusive of local affection, the constitution, in general, is contaminated ; in consequence of a vitiated state of the bones, there soon ensues a deformity, by which the health is for ever injured ; in so much, that, if the disease should not terminate fatally during child-hood, the unhappy sufferer remains a valetudinarian through life.

To remedy cases of this kind, is certainly very difficult ; yet, if the constitution be not greatly debilitated, nor the form so much injured, as to obstruct the free exercise of the different functions ; if the disease be re-

cent, and there remains time for the operation of a dietetical and medicinal course, before it has acquired an establishment; in these circumstances, the contingency of a perfect cure is far from being an improbable, much less an impossible event. Children who have been much deformed, as well as debilitated, have afterwards received benefit in both respects, and the deformities become gradually less observable; until, at last, the bones have recovered their natural shape, and the constitution its original soundness.

In the diseases of the deeper seated Lymphatics of the back, upper part of the thigh, and about the joints, a variety of different means, both external and internal, have been recommended; such as, issues, setons, and blisters, cataplasms of *Cicuta*, sea-weed, and the different farinacious substances moistened with sea-water. Where there has been reason to apprehend that the complaint might terminate in a Hip-case, I have rubbed the part well with some stimulating application;

plication ; for instance, the *Volatile Liniment* ; but more frequently a liniment of *Camphor and Oil*, every night and morning, for a considerable time. Directions were given that the food should be light, and easy of digestion, the body be kept open by the occasional use of a little Calomel, and moderate exercise be taken, and with such other internal medicines as the different circumstances might require. But, if our endeavours to promote a reabsorption prove ineffectual, the great object, in my humble opinion, is an early opening ; for no possible advantage can be derived from leaving the tumour to increase and break of itself. By such delay, the general debility is much increased ; and the patient not only becomes more irritable, but, probably, deformed. From a thorough conviction, that no good could possibly result from leaving the case to nature, I have made early openings with the point of a lancet ; the opening need not be large, as the contents of the tumour will readily pass through a small aperture. After the contents were discharged,

discharged, I have usually injected, with a small syringe, the solution of Gum Myrrhæ, applying the Ceratum Saponaceum externally, and a proper bandage ; by these means, the quantity of discharge will be lessened, and it will become of a thicker consistence. If the patient's stomach will bear the bark, I have generally recommended it in some form ; and since the superior qualifications of the Red Bark have been made known, I have given that the preference, occasionally administering, likewise, the *Flores Martiales*, *Sal Martis*, *Seltzer Water*, &c. with a milk, or light nutritive diet, and proper exercise.

When this disease happens about the joints, I believe it has often proved disgraceful to the professors of surgery, who have hastily given their opinion, that it was incurable, and precipitately recommended the amputation of the limb. I have had a considerable number of cases of this kind under my care ; and by the diligent use of topical and internal remedies, the patients were happily restored  
to

to health, with very little remaining impediment to the action of the joint. If application is made in due time, the first object is, by every possible means to attempt a reabsorption. This I have found best effected by the camphorated liniment, blisters frequently repeated, and such methods as were before recommended. But where the disease has so far advanced as to make a reabsorption impossible, and there is an evident fluctuation, I have never hesitated to make a puncture with a lancet, and inject and dress it as before mentioned.

It very frequently happens, that the small bones of the fingers, toes, and the back of the hand, are diseased: wherever the bones are affected, so as to produce exfoliation, the case will be tedious, and more so, when from Strumous affection, than from any other cause; here we must use our endeavours to invigorate the general system by tonic medicines, air, exercise, and diet, call in the aid of stimulating applications to the part affected,



affected, and a moderate pressure by bandage. This will prevent the great enlargements which I have often seen in cases of this kind, where this circumstance was not attended to.

## C H A P. XII.

### C O N C L U S I O N.

**T**HE remarks upon the present general mode of treating Scrofulous patients, are not the result of prejudice but an attention to facts. Some Gentlemen who differ from me in opinion, respecting the mode of treating Strumous tumours, by artificial opening, and the use of mercurial medicines, appear to have misunderstood me on this subject, in imagining that the opening was to be made as soon as fluctuation was discoverable, and that mercury was to be given without exception in every instance. But the fact is, I never entertained such an idea ; convinced as I am, that the rational treatment of the  
Struma

Struma must always be regulated by particular circumstances, and not by general rules. In the former Edition of this Treatise, experience alone of the utility of the practice authorised me to recommend the opening Strumous tumours, rather than to wait the event of time. I have since had an opportunity of examining several tumours of that description, and the result, I apprehend, will, in various instances, account for the difficulty in healing many ulcers of this kind, when permitted to break of themselves. A young woman about 24 years of age, applied to the Dispensary with the glands in the neck considerably enlarged. I examined them carefully, and did not discover the least fluctuation. The patient died soon afterwards by suffocation, and I was permitted to examine the body. Upon dividing those glands, I was surprised to find them encysted tumours; the contents were a caseous substance mixed with a wheyish fluid. The cyst was, in several parts, of different degrees of thinness; but what particularly

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ticularly excited my attention, was, that the two largest cysts, which were about the size of a pigeon's egg, were not only thinner in different parts, but in both of them thinnest towards the inner or back part. From this observation I judged it probable, that the aperture into the cyst may be differently situated from that of the integuments ; for, if the opening should happen in the back or upper part of those glands, the contents, unless prevented by some adhesion, will naturally glide downwards, and produce a disposition to suppuration in the integuments below. When the tumour opens in the inferior part, this is usually accounted a favourable circumstance ; and provided that the external aperture corresponds with that of the cyst, the opinion is doubtless well founded ; but those who have much practice in the treatment of Scrofulous tumours, will be cautious of forming any sanguine expectation, until they have ascertained the real state of the diseased part. The case just now mentioned is an example which might illustrate this

this remark, had the process, as, I believe, frequently happens, proceeded in the way in which it afterwards appeared. I was convinced by innumerable instances, that the tumours which I opened, healed better and sooner in the same subject, than those which had broke before I saw the patient.

Thus have I given, I hope, a sufficiently distinct, but at least, a faithful account, of my present mode of treating the different symptoms of the Struma. I may add with equal truth, that it is the result of very extensive practice in this disease, and that, whatever opinion may be formed of these observations, I presumed not to offer them to the attention of the public, until I had previously, and repeatedly, found them to be confirmed, by the testimony of experience, in a variety of circumstances; of experience embittered by solicitude, but, in general, compensated by success. Should the method of cure, which I have endeavoured to recommend, prove conducive towards establishing,  
more

more certain and determinate principles, with respect to the treatment of the disease, I shall not much regret the continuance of that opinion, which, in opposition to my own, considers the Struma as often really a hereditary distemper. It will be sufficient for my purpose, if this speculative doctrine shall not be permitted to supersede the use of medicine in the more early stages of the disease.

T H E E N D.

